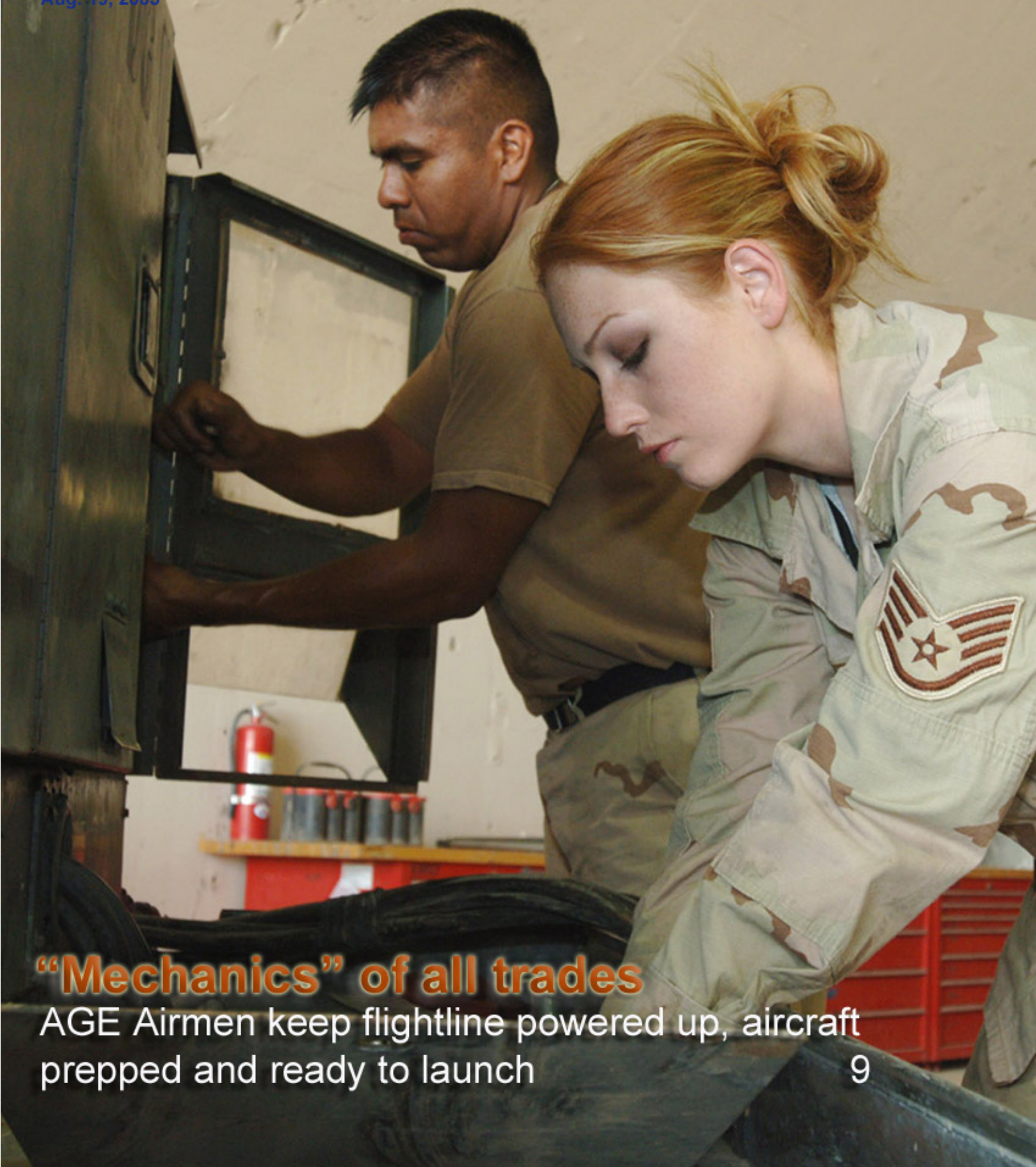




U.S. AIR FORCE

Aug. 19, 2005

ALI'TIMES



“Mechanics” of all trades

AGE Airmen keep flightline powered up, aircraft prepped and ready to launch



Out and about

Col. Michael J. Nowak, 407th Air Expeditionary Group commander, visits Team Ali.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Melissa Phillips

(Back to front) Senior Airman Henry Rios, 407th Air Expeditionary Group Personnel Contingency Operations Manpower Personnel-Base operator, shows off a new stand-alone computer to Col. Michael J. Nowak, 407th Air Expeditionary Group commander. The computer allows customers to update their personnel records, review files, make changes to their Record of Emergency Data, scan work-related documents and more.

I recently had the pleasure of visiting PERSCO. These are the people you want to be nice to and remain friends with while here, because they take care of your personnel records. So far this rotation they've inprocessed and outprocessed more than 1,000 Air Force, Iraqi, coalition and civilian personnel. After Right Start (which they've held more than 40 times), many personnel don't see these dedicated specialists until they leave. However, they stay busy. In fact, they've served more than 600 walk-in customers whom they've helped with problems that impact their career and wallet. They answer questions on a variety of issues from reenlistment concerns to how to update your dream sheet to retraining questions - and they do it all with a smile. This team here was the first to establish a virtual outprocessing database in any Air Force deployed location. It will significantly reduce the amount of time each of you have to spend outprocessing, so you can better redirect that energy to setting your replacement up for success. Tirelessly, they are behind the scenes doing the paperwork shuffle to make sure the mission never skips a beat, regardless of whose filling the billet. Thank you for all you do!

Front Page photo



Photo by Airman 1st Class Jamie Shultz

(Back to front) Staff Sgt. Jose Barraza, 777th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Aerospace Ground Equipment noncommissioned officer in charge, and Staff Sgt. Michele Calton, 777th EAMXS AGE craftsman, fix a (-86) diesel generator set. Story on Page 7 and 8.

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Chaplain leaves behind horrors of Vietnam, drug abuse to find faith



Tech. Sgt. Tony Latona, 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineers Squadron, treats Chief Master Sgt. Susan Ferguson, 407th Air Expeditionary Group superintendent, to a sweet treat Friday. More photos on Page 10.

Photo by Master Sgt. Maurice Hessel

407th ECES assumes fire protection duties for Base Camp Adder

By Tech. Sgt. Melissa Phillips

407th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

Firefighters train continuously for what if-scenarios that have a low probability of occurring. Oddly, one of those scenarios occurred just hours after firefighters took on increased responsibility here.

On Aug. 15 at 12:01 a.m., firefighters from the 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron assumed fire protection coverage for all of Base Camp Adder, in addition to Ali Base, from Wackenhut Services Incorporated, a sub contractor of Kellogg, Brown and Root.

Now, they provide fire protection to more than 8,000 U.S. servicemembers and coalition forces at Base Camp Adder.

Six hours and forty-five minutes after they officially took over, flames were shooting from a trailer behind the dining facility.

"We saved most of trailer and kept it from starting a fire in other trailers that are pretty close together," Senior Airman Chad Noyes, 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter, who is deployed from the North Dakota Air National Guard, Fargo, N.D.

The 407th ECES fire protection coverage used to only envelop Bedrock, the flightline and some joint-response buildings like the DFAC and post exchange.

In order to cover the larger area, the Air Force firefighters from nearby Camp Cedar relocated to Ali Base and swapped their duties with WSI, and the vehicles and equipment moved as well.

The 407th ECES took over the duties partly as a cost effective measure for the military and, mostly, because it made more logistical sense.

"The Air Force receives special training on flightline fires because of the unique metals and alloys found in aircraft fires," said Senior Master Sgt. Michael Brown, 407th ECES deputy fire chief, who was on scene at Monday's fire.

The materials react differently to fire and require special handling procedures.



Courtesy photo

Firefighters from the 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron put out a fire Monday at a trailer behind the dining facility. No one was hurt or injured. There is an investigation underway to determine the cause.

During a common structural fire, firefighters are taught to sweep the base of the fire to extinguish it.

On aircraft fires, they use foam and rain it down on the top of the fire to create a seal over any potential gasoline leaks and starve the fire from oxygen.

So grouping people together with similar training backgrounds lessens the likelihood of miscommunications, which can cause precious minutes to tick away.

Previously, both Air Force and WSI shared joint-response capabilities on four facilities, but their equipment wasn't interchangeable, and the two station's styles and protocols were slightly different, especially on one critical detail.

Prior to the efforts of a few servicemembers during this rotation, the Army-side didn't have a 911 system and personnel previously had to remember and dial a 10-digit DSN number that was routed through Houston, Texas.

"It took a lot of doing to get that done," said Sergeant Brown, who is deployed from the Nevada Air National Guard, Reno, Nev. "It's important because it reduces the response time from the initiation of any

incident," he said.

It also gives people an easy number to remember, so they don't have to search through paperwork to find it.

"Any delay in response time can mean the difference between transferring a recoverable patient to medics instead of a corpse," Sergeant Brown said.

Just a couple of days earlier the crew watched a training video on trailer fires, because the Army-side has more of those type of facilities.

"The training gets everyone's attention because we have to rely on the information if it ever does happen," said Airman Noyes. "It drives home the point that you always have to be prepared, and the training quickens our response time."

Sergeant Brown says there is no time for second-guessing on scene.

"That's what we live for... (a chance to help others in crisis) and provide a bridge to people when they have a problem," he said. "It humbles you to know we are the only thing people have left between their demise or the loss of all their material goods."



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EDITORIAL STAFF

Col. Michael J. Nowak
Commander, 407th AEG

Tech. Sgt. Melissa Phillips
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SSgt at Ali gets promoted to Lt in FDNY

By Tech. Sgt. Melissa Phillips

407th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

An Airman here recently gained the distinction of being addressed as both a staff sergeant and a lieutenant.

Staff Sgt. Gregg Magi, 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter, was promoted to the rank of lieutenant in the Fire Department City of New York, during a ceremony Wednesday.

"It feels good to be promoted," said Sergeant Magi, who is deployed from the Stewart Air National Guard, Newburg, N.Y. "I've always wanted to be involved in public service."

During the ceremony, he and two of his coworkers crowded around a telephone to listen to the events unfold. When Sergeant Magi's name was called and the crowd was informed he was serving in Iraq, thunderous applause echoed over the line.

"It was humbling to hear the applause," he said. "I just want to thank all the FDNY firefighters who have showed me their support."

Master Sgt. Charles Burke, 407th ECES assistant fire chief, surprised Sergeant Magi with the news of his promotion earlier in the day. However, Sergeant Magi still wasn't aware he would take the oath over the telephone until it occurred. He had incorrectly assumed he would have to wait until the next class.

"It couldn't have happened to a nicer guy," said Sergeant Burke. "He studied for it, and if anyone's ready for the responsibility, it's him."

No stranger to hard work, Sergeant Magi studied 5,000 pages of material to achieve his new rank. As a lieutenant, he'll supervise a four- to five-man firefighting crew and is charged with ensuring his crewmembers safety on scene.

"There are more than a 100 New York City firefighters that I know of deployed in the Southwest Asia Area of Responsibility," said Sergeant Magi. "They all deserve the same amount of recognition."

Sergeant Magi, who is a fulltime firefighter with Squad 18, Special Operations Command, was one of 27 firefighters



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Melissa Phillips

Staff Sgt. Gregg Magi, 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter, takes the oath to accept his newly-earned rank of lieutenant in the Fire Department City of New York Wednesday. Sergeant Magi is deployed from the Stewart Air National Guard, Newburg, N.Y.

who were also promoted to various ranks at the ceremony.

Based in Manhattan, Sergeant Magi's unit is known for high-angle/technical rescue and high-rise firefighting in New York's many skyscrapers. His unit also performs rescue operations.

He was working the day the Twin Towers were hit. Instead of immediately being sent to the scene, his former unit, Engine Company 82, covered another engine company's territory, who had already responded to Ground Zero.

from the other company perished inside the wreckage.

It's something Sergeant Magi will never forget.

It's one of the reasons he enlisted in the military and volunteered to come to Iraq.

"I'm glad to have the opportunity to serve in the war on terror," said Sergeant Magi. "I wanted to step up and do something positive for the memory of the members we lost and their families who were affected."

Three hundred and forty three fighters gave up their lives trying to rescue victims of the attack.

"New York City was hit hard by 9/11, and it destroyed a lot of lives," he said.

He understands not everyone is happy with the U.S. military presence in Iraq, but he personally feels it's necessary.

"People are entitled to their opinion to disagree if we should be here," said Sergeant Magi. "For me, I know us being here keeps

the insurgents on their 'back feet' so they can't plan an attack in the United States or in any other country.

"It's very necessary to go where (the terrorists) live," he said.

"People are entitled to their opinion to disagree if we should be here. For me, I know us being here keeps the insurgents on their 'back feet,' so they can't plan an attack in the United States or in any other country. It's very necessary to go where (the terrorists) live."

-- Staff Sgt. Gregg Magi
407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter

A fire broke out in Harlem, and Sergeant Magi and the rest of his company went to contain it. He and his crew didn't get to Ground Zero until after the Towers collapsed.

In the chaos that ensued, the lieutenant

The ABCs of thriving on a deployment, beyond

What is Success? To me, it means going home safely at the end of this deployment by following three simple rules that I refer to as the ABCs.

A is for attitude. Attitude is a choice; you can choose to be either negative or positive. With a positive attitude, you can accomplish almost anything you set your mind to. While you may not be able to control your environment or the things others do, you can control your reactions to these things. For example, if you find yourself bored during your stay here, find something to do. You can go to the gym and work towards one of the incentive prizes for miles ran or cycled, you can go to the library and check out some books to read, you can get involved in the many different organizations on base or take on a project sponsored by the First Four, Focus 56 or Top 3, or you can simply participate in events going on around Ali. By getting involved, you'll get to know and work with people from across the base, and become part of something much larger than just your job or your unit. The leadership, communication and organizational skills you gain from being actively involved will make you a much better Air Force leader and manager. The skills learned here will benefit you on the job and through-

out your career. So remember, find something to do and get involved in - and do it with a positive attitude.

B is for behavior.

Just like you can control your attitude, you can also control your behavior by choosing to always do the right thing, even when you think no one is watching. Whether you're a leader or a follower, you should always choose to behave in a manner that displays a professional military image and fosters a professional atmosphere. Good leaders create a climate where others are willing to accept new and greater responsibilities and are able to learn new skills. By working on simple things such as complying with dress and appearance standards, maintaining personal fitness and professional relationships, and showing proper customs and courtesies, you are displaying positive behaviors that others will want to emulate. A good leader realizes that if they do the right thing, others will too.

C is for commitment. Be committed to your job, unit and coworkers, and give 100

"By getting involved, you'll get to know and work with people from across the base, and become part of something much larger than just your job or your unit."



Story and quote by Master Sgt. Angela Salcedo
407th Air Expeditionary Group (PERSCO)

percent everyday. Focus on getting back to face-to-face leadership and taking care of yourself and your troops.

Always remember, you are in the best position to really get to know your troops and know their strengths, weaknesses, goals and families.

Take time to train them, care about them, hold them accountable, reward them and help them excel. Move obstacles that hinder their efficiency, listen to their ideas and be their advocate.

Take time to mold them and make those who follow you better than you and I are today. Always remain committed and willing to step up to the plate, lead your troops, protect their lives and ensure their effectiveness. The work we do today at Ali will make a difference for our Air Force and nation!

A series of failures can manifest into success

Failure can be a great teacher because it gives you the ability to try again or try something else. Successful people succeed because they never give up. They have an uncanny ability to look past failures, obstacles and shortcomings, and focus on the end result.

History is full of examples where perseverance has over come failure and insurmountable odds. Abraham, Moses, and the apostle Paul, all faced incredible obstacles, yet they all persevered because they had faith and never gave up. Walt Disney went bankrupt and failed multiple times before he finally got Mickey right. Thomas Edison and Albert Einstein both had multiple failures before they had their greatest successes.

Examples where weakness over comes strength by mere will power and perseverance are all around us. I once heard a sermon where the pastor gave a mental picture of a weed he saw on the side of the

road. No one watered it, no one nurtured it, no one mentored it, yet there it was despite the fact that the road had been tilled, covered in asphalt and run over hundreds of times. The weed continued to make its journey towards the sun until it reached its goal and made it to the surface. Incredible how something as insignificant as a weed on the side of the road can teach you one of life's greatest lessons.

Charles F. Boden, the first African American to pilot a space shuttle, once told me at a college seminar "to reach the stars, you have to ignore circumstances and setbacks, and concentrate on your goals." Collin Powell, said the same thing. He was born in Harlem, raised in the South Bronx, went to

"I once heard a sermon where the pastor gave a mental picture of a weed he saw on the side of the road. No one watered it, no one nurtured it, no one mentored it, yet there it was..."



Story and quote by Master Sgt. Ricardo Ramirez
777th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron first sergeant

public school, got out of public college, went into the Army and then just stuck with it. He learned from each setback, and continued to take even bigger risks, which combined with the wisdom that experiencing failure can provide, propelled him to the third highest position in the nation.

The same principle of perseverance applies in your personal life, physical fitness, relationships and spiritual growth. So the next time you fail at something you really want, don't give up. Learn from your failures and persevere until you reach your goals.

Ali Airmen swoop up 3 wing awards

July Company Grade Officer of the Month



Congratulations are due to Capt. Eric Springer, 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron Operations Flight commander, for winning the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, Balad Air Base, Iraq, July CGO of the Month.

July Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Month

Congratulations are due to Master Sgt. Blair Santa Maria, 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Force Protection Flight commander, for winning the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, Balad AB, Iraq, July SNCO of the Month.



July Sharp Saber Team of the Month

Congratulations are due to 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Pavements Team for winning the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, Balad AB, Iraq, July Sharp Saber Team of the Month. Team members are Tech. Sgt. Ronald Bunch, Tech. Sgt. Scott Austin, Staff Sgt. Matthew Toman, Staff Sgt. Thomas Snell, Senior Airman Anthony Thompson, Senior Airman Brent Rice, Senior Airman Daniel Turba, Senior Airman Carlos Herrera, Airman 1st Class Bret Weiler, Airman 1st Class Noah Lefebvre, Airman 1st Class Alexis Frakes and Senior Airman Arthur Fisher.

Hunderds of NCOs face retraining into new specialties

More than 3,000 staff, technical and master sergeants have been identified to receive retraining vulnerability notices under the initial phase of the Air Force's fiscal 2006 Noncommissioned Officer Retraining Program. As part of Phase I of the program, scheduled for Aug. 1 to Oct. 14, Air Force officials notified NCOs as vulnerable to retrain. Officials asked these Airmen to submit their choices of shortage career fields they would most like to retrain into or to apply for special duty assignments no later than Oct. 14. Vulnerability listings by grade and AFSC were posted on AFPC's Web site Aug. 1 and will be updated weekly. To view the list, Airmen can login to the AFPC Web site at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/vs/> and click on the retraining link. (Courtesy of AFPC News Service)

To read the full story go to <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123011323>.

Amnesty Day

There will be an Amnesty Day Aug. 25 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the corner of the post exchange parking lot. Everyone is asked to turn in any found small arms, grenades, AT-4s, foreign ammunition, etc. People are warned they can't take munitions and weaponry home with them, mail it or store it in their living facilities. For more information, contact Master Sgt. William Hutson, 407th Air Expeditionary Group Weapon Safety manager, at 445-2403.

PERSCO's corner

Here are some facts on base of preference:

First Term Airmen must have an approved career job reservation and have been on station for one year prior to applying for BOP. If approved, member must reenlist to keep the assignment.

Second Term and later Airmen must have 41 months time on station to apply for a base of preference. If denied, member may submit an application again in six months. For more information or to apply, stop by PERSCO or call 445-2716.

Power outage

There is a scheduled power outage Aug. 24 at 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. The outage will affect a large majority of Bedrock. The outage is necessary for maintenance. For more information, contact Capt. Teresa Rose, 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, at 445-2476.

Proper disposal of uniforms

Air Force personnel can dispose of unserviceable uniforms in the box in front of the 407th Expeditionary Services Squadron supply tent in Bedrock. Never throw uniforms in the trash. This is a serious force protection violation. For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Titus Cordero, 407th ESVS, at 445-8212.

Correction

Master Sgt. Kristy Walker's squadron was incorrectly identified in the Aug. 12 Ali Times as the 407th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron. In fact, it is the 777th EAS.

Mechanics of all trades

AGE Airmen power up flightline, ensure mechanics can fix planes 24/7 and, in the process, pick up skills useful on off-duty time

By Tech. Sgt. Melissa Phillips

407th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

When Staff Sgt. Michele Calton spotted a stranded elderly-woman broken down with smoke streaming from under her vehicle's hood, her first instinct wasn't to call someone else for help.

She calmly got out of the car in her four-inch heels and skirt she wore for a girls' night out, lifted up the hood and reconnected a loose radiator hose. In the meantime, she handed the woman her cell phone to call her husband before she drove her to purchase more antifreeze, so she could go home.

It's all simple stuff to the 777th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Aerospace Ground Equipment craftsman, who picked up her mechanical skills in the Air Force.

"I credit the military for all my gained knowledge," said Sergeant Calton. "I probably would have never attempted to close that gap (and learn how to fix machinery), because of the perception this career field carries."

Sergeant Calton said she thinks sometimes women feel it's too difficult to understand all the moving parts inside engines and how they all tie together. After all, she says prior to technical school she classified herself as "mechanically-challenged."

"Once you learn the fundamentals of an engine, it's actually quite simple," said Sergeant Calton. "The 'big metal mess' under the hood starts to take the form of a starter, alternator, radiator, etc."

Referring to themselves as "mechanics of all trades," Sergeant Calton and her colleagues have to learn a little bit about everything, because not only do they deliver the equipment to their customers - they maintain it as well.

They quickly figure out how to fix light carts, ground diesel generators, mobile air conditioning units, air compressors, hydraulic test stands and assortment of small machinery that support aircraft operations.

Even though they fix some pretty specialized equipment, AGE craftsmen consider themselves maintainers foremost.

"I'm a mechanic; I can work on a truck



Photo by Airman 1st Class Jamie Shultz

Staff Sgt. Jose Barraza, 777th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Aerospace Ground Equipment noncommissioned officer in charge, and Staff Sgt. Michele Calton, 777th EAMXS AGE craftsman, work on a (-86) diesel generator set that powers up aircraft on the flightline.

right along side my fiancé," said Sergeant Calton, who owns and maintains a 2005 Yamaha R6 motorcycle.

She realizes that her presence in a mostly male-dominated career field is often shocking.

"When people see me, it's not expected," said Sergeant Calton, who is from Luke Air Force Base, Ariz. "However, I like the fact I get to know all this information. It's pretty awesome to be able to work on these things."

"I have a fuller understanding how they actually work individually and how they come together to achieve the end result of starting your car or applying power to an aircraft," she said.

For another AGE craftsman, it's important to learn the basics, so he can apply them to fix just about anything.

"When it boils down to it, it's all about remembering the basics - where's the source power, air, hydraulic pressure, etc," said Staff Sgt. Jose Barraza, 777th EAMXS AGE noncommissioned officer in charge, who is also deployed from Luke AFB.

"AGE is all about problem and solution solving," he said.

Although AGE craftsman spend a good bit of time elbow-deep in grease and wires,

they also get out from under the hood of equipment to talk with their customers. During her visits, Sergeant Calton said aircrew often show her pictures on their digital cameras of the people and places they see when the C-130 leaves here.

"When you see the pictures of where the aircraft has been, whether it dropped off humanitarian supplies or troops going home, it's a great feeling knowing you helped it get there."

AGE is often a secondary thought in mission success, but without their equipment, transportation couldn't fix the humvees that security forces use to patrol the base and outside area to keep more than 8,000 U.S. servicemembers and coalition forces safe in this area.

"I rely heavily on AGE (light carts) to provide our lighting for the 24/7 maintenance operations here," said Senior Master Sgt. Konrad Delger, 407th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron Vehicle Management flight chief, Nevada Air National Guard.

"Also, without their support (of an air compressor) the entire Air Force vehicle fleet here would have been driving around

See AGE Page 8

AGE equipment powers up aircraft, so mechanics can perform maintenance without burning fuel

Continued from Page 7

on flat tires,” he said.

Even though AGE is more than happy to help out other units who occasionally need their equipment, their primary mission is supporting aircraft maintainers.

Without their generators the aircraft would have to burn through precious fuel to produce electricity.

“Our main piece of equipment is the (-86) diesel generator set,” said Sergeant Barraza. “That’s our prized possession for AGE out here. It allows aircraft mechanics to maintain and run system checks on aircraft.”

When the sun goes down, AGE craftsmen go to work. They provide around-the-clock service, 365 days a year.

“Without AGE, we could not fly the mission or do proper maintenance on aircraft,” said Master Sgt. Jeff Wiedeman, 777th EAMXS production superintendent, who is deployed from Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

“We use the power units (air/electrical) to power the aircraft, so we can use the different systems from interior lighting to trouble shooting all maintenance problems from hydraulics (that lift the aircraft’s flaps), engines and all electrical systems,” he said

Realizing other agencies depend on AGE to get their job done is a source of satisfaction for Sergeant Calton, who said she was happy to deploy here to have a closer impact on the war on terror.

“When I see the aircraft take off and come back, I know that’s a result of our equipment working properly,” she said.

Knowing she can fix equipment, which powers up million-dollar aircraft, has given her the confidence to fix other mechanical items.

Since her training as an AGE craftsman, she seems to have a soft spot for stopping to help those in broken-down vehicles. Right before she deployed here, she pulled over to help a 16-year-old girl with a flat tire.

“I pulled out my tool box from my car along with my coveralls (once again I was dressed up, heels and all). Then I showed her how to change a tire,” Sergeant Calton said.

Sergeant Calton said she loves her job because she likes being thrown into a situation where she has to figure out a solution.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Jamie Shultz

Staff Sgt. Jose Barraza, 777th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Aerospace Ground Equipment noncommissioned officer in charge, dismantles the control panel on a (-86) diesel generator set to troubleshoot an electrical problem. AGE supplies equipment to maintainers 24/7, 365 days a year.

“This job is great if you love to attack a challenge,” said Sergeant Calton. “Units come in broke and you have to figure out what’s wrong with them, fix them and send them back out on their way to take care of the mission.”



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Melissa Phillips

Leaving behind a legacy

Tech. Sgt. Luis Sanchez, 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, paints the U.S. flag on the barrier in front of the 407th Air Expeditionary Group flag post in Bedrock. The mural depicts the stripes of the Top 3 members, an outline of the country, and the Iraqi and U.S. flags. “The Top 3 wanted to change our logo to embrace the Iraqi’s who are working side-by-side with us,” said Master Sgt. Jennifer Smith, 407th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron and Top 3 president. “We also wanted to leave our mural in a prominent place as a reminder to all who come after us that we are all here for the same reason, Americans and Iraqis alike - for freedom.” For more information about Top 3 activities, call Sergeant Smith at 445-2519.



Online gaming availability?

Rumor

I heard Ali Base is planning to have online gaming capabilities available on the network.

Fact

Unfortunately, this is a rumor. There are no plans to offer online connections for gaming on the Ali Base operational network. Online connections are typically requested for connectivity to off-base gaming servers to play online games (Everquest, Dune, etc). The limited capability (bandwidth) of Ali's circuits dictates that its use is for mission purposes, and not for entertainment or gaming traffic. The Ali Base network is part of the U.S. Central Command Air Forces enterprise controlled by the Network Operations and Security Center at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C. The NOSC, per instruction, does not permit gaming servers to be connected to the operational base network.

The following question was answered by Tech. Sgt. Stephanie Wolpink, 407th Expeditionary Communications Squadron Network Control Center, at 445-2293.

Heard a rumor...

Don't speculate. Get the facts by e-mailing the Ali.Times@tlab.centaf.af.mil or call Chief Master Sgt. Susan Ferguson, 407th AEG superintendent.

Quotable quotes

"Never give in, never give in, never, never, never, never – in nothing great or small, large or petty. Never give in except to convictions of honor and good sense."

– Winston Churchill

This quote was submitted by Master Sgt. Ricardo Ramirez, 777th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron first sergeant.

Editor's note: If you have a favorite quote that you want to share with Team Ali, e-mail it to ali.times@tlab.centaf.af.mil.

407th AEG Warrior of the Week Senior Airman Marlon Lancaster



Unit: 407th Expeditionary Services Squadron

Duty title: Fitness specialist

Home unit: 22nd Services Squadron, McConnell Air Force Base, Kan.

Why other warriors say he's a warrior: He excels in everything asked of him. He is in charge of running the intramural volleyball program and was hand picked by his leadership to be an official and scorekeeper of the events as well. He was a key member in the set up and tear down for the Tops in Blue tour here. Recently selected for promotion to staff sergeant, he is willing and able to take on any challenge facing him.

What is your most memorable Air Force experience: Being stationed overseas in Germany

Hobbies: Baseball, working out and relaxing

Identify This



KNOW WHAT THIS IS? If you can identify the object, e-mail us at Ali.Times@tlab.centaf.af.mil with "Identify This" in the subject block by 3 p.m. the following Friday. All correct entries will be placed in a box and **three winners** will be **randomly selected** at the following week's **Combat Bingo** at 7:30 p.m. at the Hot Spot. *Participants do not have to attend bingo to win.* The three winners will **win a complimentary t-shirt or coin** from the 407th Expeditionary Services Squadron. The Aug. 5 *ID This* winner, who correctly identified the cloud-patterned graphic on a box of water, is Staff Sgt. Mary Willis, 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron. Two other winners were chosen but their names were misplaced. If anyone remembers who they are, please call public affairs at 445-2318.



Courtesy photo

(Front to back) The Italians play ECONS/EFM during the play offs. The Italians won the tournament and EOSS was runner up.

Volley ball winners

Winners (Italians)

Oddo Giuseppe
Luisi Vincewzo
Esposito Gerard
Lewtini Massiniwawo
Rollo Glauco

Runner up (EOSS)

Lt. Col. Paul Kucharek
Master Sgt. George Young
Tech. Sgt. Chad McBee
Senior Airman Westley Owens
Senior Airman Paul Oceanak
Staff Sgt. Julian Duenas

Library offerings

The library stocks 493 videos of the latest releases and favorite oldies, as well as books in all genres. They also carry educational materials, DANTES and CLEP. Come relax in a lounge-like atmosphere 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily. For more information call 445-2609.

Several members of Team Ali take one in the kisser for charity



Photos by Master Sgt. Maurice Hessel

(Left) Capt. Tracey Howell-LaPalme, 407th Expeditionary Contracting Squadron commander, builds up the tension before slamming a pie into Lt. Col. Benjamin Wham, 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron commander, at bingo Friday. **(Below)** Capt. Greg Whitaker, 407th Expeditionary Communications Squadron and the Company Grade Officer's Council president, smears pie filling on Tech. Sgt. Stephanie Wolpink, 407th ECS, who helped put him in the predicament. The CGOC raised money during the pie-in-the-face contest to purchase a karaoke machine and donate it to Team Ali. Lt. Col. David Rearick, 407th Air Expeditionary Group deputy commander and Chief Master Sgt. Susan Ferguson, 407th AEG superintendent, also received pies in the face for charity. For more information about how to get involved with the CGOC, contact Captain Whitaker at 445-2438.



Just for Fun

Presented by the 407th Expeditionary Services Squadron

Friday

5:30 a.m., Step Class at Muscle Beach
4:30 p.m., Slim in 6, resist-a-band, at House of Pain, Army fitness center
5 p.m., Spin at Muscle Beach
7 p.m., 9-Ball and Halo-2 TNY at Army Rec Center
7:30 p.m., Bingo followed by a movie at Hot Spot
8 p.m., Step aerobics at House of Pain
8:30 p.m., Absolute Abs at Muscle Beach

Saturday

5:30 a.m., Pilates at House of Pain
2:30 p.m., Pilates at Muscle Beach
4:30 p.m., Slim in 6, resist-a-band, at House of Pain
7 p.m., Dominoes and darts at Army Rec center
8 p.m., Ali Idol at Big Top
8 p.m., Salsa lessons at House of Pain

Sunday

3 p.m., Spin at House of Pain
4 p.m., Shito-Ryu at House of Pain
7 p.m., Spades at Army Rec Center
8 p.m., Co-ed 2-ball at Muscle Beach
8 p.m., 8-ball at Hot Spot

Monday

4:30 p.m., Slim in 6, resist-a-band, at House of Pain
7:30 p.m., Jujitsu, at Muscle Beach
8 p.m., Step aerobics at House of Pain
8 p.m., Chess at Hot Spot
8 p.m., 3-point shootout at basketball courts
8:30 p.m., Absolute Abs at Muscle Beach
9:30 p.m., Aerobics at Big Top

Tuesday

5:30 a.m., Pilates at House of Pain
5:30 a.m., Yoga at Muscle Beach
2:30 p.m., Yoga at Muscle Beach
4:30 p.m., Slim in 6, resist-a-band, at House of Pain

5 p.m., Spin at Muscle Beach
6:30 p.m., Shito-Ryu at House of Pain
8 p.m., Ping Pong at Hot Spot
8 p.m., Spin at House of Pain

Wednesday

5:30 a.m., Aerobics at Muscle Beach
2:30 p.m., Pilates at Muscle Beach
4:30 p.m., Slim in 6, resist-a-band, at House of Pain
5 p.m., Spin at Muscle Beach
8 p.m., 3-on-3 basketball at basketball courts
8 p.m., Step aerobics at House of Pain
8 p.m., Dueces Wild Poker at Hot Spot
8:30 p.m., Absolute Abs at Muscle Beach

Thursday

5:30 a.m., Pilates at House of Pain
5:30 a.m., Tai Chi (taped) at Muscle Beach
2:30 p.m., Tai Chi (taped) at Muscle Beach
4:30 p.m., Slim in 6, resist-a-band, at House of Pain
5 p.m., Spin at Muscle Beach
6:30 p.m., Shito-Ryu at House of Pain
7 p.m., Scrabble tournament at Army Rec Center
8 p.m., Foosball doubles at Hot Spot
8 p.m., Spin at House of Pain
8 p.m., Music night in the Courtyard at Adder Commons
9:30 p.m., Aerobics at Big Top
10:30 p.m., Tai Chi (taped) at Muscle Beach

Aug. 26

5:30 a.m., Step class at Muscle Beach
4:30 p.m., Slim in 6, resist-a-band, at House of Pain
5 p.m., Spin at Muscle Beach
7 p.m., 9-Ball and Halo-2 at Army Rec Center
7:30 p.m., Bingo followed by a movie at Hot Spot
8 p.m., Step aerobics at House of Pain
8 p.m., Hand-to-hand at House of Pain
8:30 p.m., Absolute Abs at Muscle Beach

Cricket Movie Theater

HOT SPOT

Today



Mr. and Mrs. Smith, 1 a.m., 7 a.m. and 1 p.m., A action-packed thrill ride about a bored married couple who discover that they both are hiding a secret - they're secret agents. When the truth is out, they end up in each other's cross-hairs. Starring Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie.



Mindhunters, 3 a.m., 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., An FBI-training program for psychological profiling used to track down serial killers spawns the next serial killer. The group has to look inwards to find out who it is. Starring LL Cool J and Eion Bailey.



The Interpreter, 5 a.m. and 5 p.m., A U.N. interpreter inadvertently overhears a death threat against an African head of state scheduled to address the United Nation's General Assembly. As she tries to thwart the plot, she realizes she's become a target herself. Starring Nicole Kidman and Sean Penn.



War of the Worlds, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., Martians land near London, conquering and ruining the metropolis; the fate of civilization and even of the human race remains in doubt until the very last moment. Starring Tom Cruise and Tim Robbins.



Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, 9 p.m., Arthur Dent is having a bad day. His house is about to be bulldozed, he discovers that his friend is an alien and to top things off, Planet Earth is about to be demolished. Starring Jennifer Lopez and Jane Fonda.



Monster-In-Law, 11 p.m., The story of a young woman who must reconsider her engagement when confronted with her nightmarish future mother-in-law. Starring Billy Bailey, Anna Chancellor and John Malkovich.

Saturday

Mind Hunters, 1 a.m., 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.
Mr. and Mrs. Smith, 3 a.m. and 3 p.m.
Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, 5 a.m. and 11 p.m.
The Interpreter, 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.
War of the Worlds, 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.
Monster-in-Law, 11 a.m.

Tuesday

The Interpreter, 1 a.m. and 1 p.m.
War of the Worlds, 3 a.m. and 3 p.m.
Monster-in-Law, 5 a.m. and 5 p.m.
Mind Hunters, 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Mr. and Mrs. Smith, 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.
Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, 11 a.m. and 11 p.m.

Sunday

Mr. and Mrs. Smith, 1 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, 3 a.m. and 3 p.m.
The Interpreter, 5 a.m. and 5 p.m.
War of the Worlds, 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Monster-in-Law, 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.
Mind Hunters, 11 a.m. and 11 p.m.

Wednesday

War of the Worlds, 1 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Monster-in-Law, 3 a.m. and 3 p.m.
Mind Hunters, 5 a.m. and 5 p.m.
Mr. and Mrs. Smith, 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.
The Interpreter, 11 a.m. and 11 p.m.

Monday

Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, 1 a.m. and 1 p.m.
The Interpreter, 3 a.m. and 3 p.m.
War of the Worlds, 5 a.m.
Monster-in-Law, 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Mind Hunters, 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.
Mr. and Mrs. Smith, 11 a.m. and 11 p.m.
War of the Worlds, 5 p.m.

Thursday

Monster-in-Law, 1 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Mind Hunters, 3 a.m. and 3 p.m.
Mr. and Mrs. Smith, 5 a.m. and 5 p.m.
Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.
The Interpreter, 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.
War of the Worlds, 11 a.m. and 11 p.m.

For more information or to share suggestions, about 407th Services Squadron events, call 445-2696.

For more information about the House of Pain, Army fitness center, call 833-1709. For more information about Army morale, welfare and recreation activities, call 833-1745.



Fragmented, Redeemed

Chaplain leaves behind horrors of Vietnam, alcohol abuse to find faith

By Tech. Sgt. Melissa Phillips

407th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

Religion in war

2nd in a 2-part series

When a rocket struck Charles Perry's barracks one sunny day at Phan Rang Air Base, Vietnam, it had a profound impact on his life - but it didn't cause him to rediscover his faith.

Instead, it opened up more questions.

"I used to ask God about all the painful things in my life, especially, 'Why Vietnam,'" said Chaplain (Maj.) Charles Perry, 407th Air Expeditionary Group Protestant chaplain.

Although no one he served with sacrificed their life defending the ideals of freedom, he knew several high school friends who died and some were seriously wounded.

"I consider every servicemember that fought or died in Vietnam a close friend, whether I knew them or not, and it hurt when any one of them died in war," said Chaplain Perry, who is stationed at Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station, Minn.

It was lunch time when his base came under attack. His roommate had just shared some homemade cookies from a care package his mom sent him. Joking around, his friend blew up the bag the baked goods were packed in and popped it loudly.

A screaming wake-up call

A second later, everyone frantically dropped to the ground, when they heard a bigger boom, as a 122 mm rocket went screaming directly over their heads. It landed outside on the other end of the barracks. Fortunately no one died, but some Airmen were hit with shrapnel.

"I always had a feeling of helplessness when things like that happened," said Chaplain Perry. "I guess it would be like getting picked on by a bully everyday and knowing that you were helpless to fight back; you just had to take it."

That helplessness drove him to fill the void. Instead of turning to God, he sought out a homespun treatment plan of alcohol.

"After Vietnam, I seemed to have no direction in life," said Chaplain Perry. "I was



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Melissa Phillips

(Back/middle) Chaplain (Maj.) Charles Perry, 407th Air Expeditionary Group Protestant chaplain, prays with (Back/left) Senior Airman Josh Jacobs, 407th Expeditionary Communications Squadron; (Front/left) Army 2nd Lt. Scott Nelles, 3/112th Armor Battalion and (Front/right) Army Spc. Brian A. Collins, A/2-44 Airborne Division (Air Assault), prior to the contemporary gospel service. The servicemembers sing in the gospel band before the sermon.

so confused, mixed up and fragmented.

"I would not have called myself an alcoholic, because I still had some control over my life," he said. "Most of my friends were like me. Once we started drinking, we didn't quit until we reached the bottom of the bottle."

Even though most of his career as a crew chief on F-100s was surrounded by a cloud of loneliness and inner conflict, he still requested to extend in Vietnam. But, the planes he maintained were sent back home.

Shortly after he left the Air Force, he moved to Brooklyn, N.Y., to manage a baseball batting range in Coney Island.

Drowning out the images

A bit of a wanderer, he was offered a job on the Alaskan pipeline three years later. He married a girl from his home town of Chippewa Falls, Wis., who also subscribed to the same liquid-release, and together they moved to Alaska.

There he managed an electrical contracting business. After some time passed, he decided to move from one town to another.

Right before his move, a Christian he had met asked him to turn his life over to God.

Chaplain Perry told him he had already unsuccessfully tried religion before, that he had a long time to live and would reconsider it when he was older.

A close call

However, another close call changed his mind. As he and his wife drove to their new home, he encountered another truck head on, barreling around a hairpin curve in their lane.

For a moment, he says everything went black and the only thing that went through his mind was "No time."

The next thing he knew, he was standing on the road looking at his truck. Unbelievably, he says there was no damage. He says it was then he knew God intervened and spared their lives.

Shortly after settling in their new home, a man asked him to go to church. There he heard a gospel message that changed his

Reedemed Finding a new start, serving others through the Air Force chaplaincy

Continued from Page 12

life forever: through Christ sinners can have a fresh start in life; a second chance to get it right.

A month before his 30th birthday in April 1978, he turned his life over to Christ. "I knew that it was the end of alcohol in my life," he said.

A life-altering event

"My life was so changed that day I hugged the pastor and told him, I knew I had to go back into the military and tell people about what I found," Chaplain Perry said.

Sadly, it was also the end of his five-month marriage to a woman who still wanted to frequent bars, drink and party.

However, even though his heart was taken over with God's love, he was still unsure of exactly how he would serve and was still a bit of a daredevil.

So he signed divorce papers and headed to Prescott, Ariz., on his Norton 850 Commando motorcycle to attend Embry Riddle College and get his commercial pilot license.

He stopped in Leavenworth, Wash., with the intent of camping overnight, attending church and continuing on.

It was there his second wife, Ruth, found him. He ended up staying through the harvest season and worked in the apple orchards.

Finding a supporter in faith

At a church service, she told him she had a premonition he was meant to be her husband.

Not quite ready to hear this, Chaplain Perry politely said to her through her tears, "Well, I'm sorry God hasn't told me that yet."

He told Ruth that he would go to church that night, but was still leaving in the morning. While listening to the sermon, he heard a voice - loud and clear - say, "You're going to take up Ruth and be in the ministry soon."

Even though he said this experience shook him to the core, he was still going to leave. However, that night a massive snow storm hit the area, closing the mountain passes and preventing him from traveling.

So he settled in for a few more days to get to know the woman who referred to herself as his future wife. On Dec. 15, 1978, he took Ruth as his "Godly wife."

With her support, he joined the Air National Guard and pursued an education that eventually led him to become an Air Force chaplain.

He was commissioned as an Army Reserve chaplain in 1988, and later switched to the Air National Guard January 1990 when a position opened.

Helping others through their pain

He often shares the story of his past with others, because he says it's unnecessary for servicemembers to feel as alone and lost as he once did.

"They know that I have been where they are and have hurt like they hurt," said Chaplain Perry, who is a father to Dustin, 24; Kim, 23 and Alex, 13.

"I let them know that God is not looking for perfect people," he said.

Even though he has a strong faith, Chaplain Perry said he's sometimes still has moments when images of his past bring tears

to his eyes.

"The day I heard a story on the radio and remembered the picture of the little girl featured in Life magazine (running to escape her village as it was bombed by napalm), I felt hurt for her. I started feeling some responsibility for her experience and others like her," said Chaplain Perry.

Overcoming guilt

A thought came to him over and over, "You are guilty of killing hundreds of people because you prepared the weapon."

But he knew it wasn't true and was able to shake the thought eventually. However, his emotions resurfaced as he watched the Gulf War unfold on television, and he experienced vivid, painful flashbacks.

He sought successful treatment for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, but still sometimes revisits the hurtful memories.

The power of spirituality

A certified addiction therapist, he said he strongly believes in the power of the spiritual role of the military chaplaincy, whose mission is to serve the various religious needs of all servicemembers - whether that is Jew, Christian, Muslim, etc.

"Most of the problems we deal with in our lives are best dealt with from a spiritual perspective.

"It's proven that drug and alcohol programs that don't have a spiritual emphasis have a very low success rate, while those that emphasize the spiritual aspect of recovery have a higher success rate," he said.

In all Chaplain Perry, has given 29 years of his life to the military.

Serving others

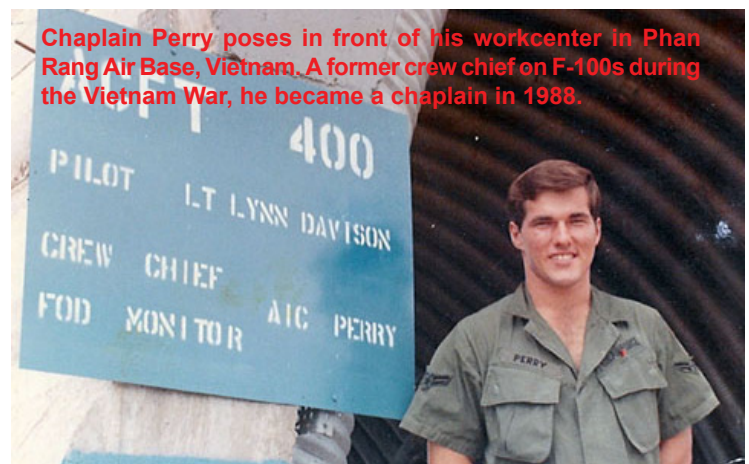
"This is what I've been called to do," said Chaplain Perry, who calls himself a Heinz-57 variety of Protestant because he enjoys ministering to people of all faith backgrounds.

"I only have a couple of years left before the military will put me out to pasture, so I want to do as much of this as I can (in his two years left prior to retirement)," Chaplain Perry said.

He's already volunteered to redeploy in January 2006 with the Army, who currently have a shortage of chaplains. The last he heard he had not yet been approved but is hopeful.

"I want to tell servicemembers, 'If a person has strong faith, then they have assurance that their lives are in the hands of someone greater than any enemy force.'"

For more information about Oasis of Peace chapel services and programs, call 445-2006.



Courtesy photo